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Title: Current situation in the field of telecommunication/ICT statistics in Estonia

Current situation in the field of telecommunication/ICT statistics in Estonia

Information Society (IS)

The Information Society is a new statistical field, dealing with the wide development of ICT technology and information in digital form and with the wide range of topics, which are needed for policy purposes. The area of Information Technology (IT) has developed very fast in Estonia.

Statistics on Information Society

IS area has many dimensions and there are several actions and projects connected with IS statistics. Statistical Office of Estonia (SOE) is involved into Eurostat`s data collection and also into eEuropa+ action. Different users have different needs and it is not easy to produce data for all of them. User needs vary between actors and change over time. The topics for which data are needed cut across traditional statistical areas and this requires co-operation between different areas of data collection.

As there is no EU regulation for Information Society statistics, SOE has organised its work according to the draft for a Council Regulation concerning statistics on the IS. This draft covers two surveys: on ICT usage in enterprises and in households. In the draft it is proposed to carry out those surveys every year between 2004 and 2008.

This year SOE organised for the first time the “**Enterprise survey on ICT usage**”. The survey on ICT in enterprises is based on the Eurostat`s questionnaire “Community Survey on ICT usage in enterprises (E-Commerce)”. (Estonian questionnaire is named as “Infotehnoloogia ettevõttes/Information technology in the enterprise”). 3 330 enterprises with 10 and more employees are surveyed in 2002. The results of the survey will be available at the end of 2002.

The items of e-commerce survey are:

1. Information systems in enterprises
2. Use of Internet
3. Purchase/sales through the Internet
4. E-commerce through the EDI (Electronic Data Interchange)
5. Problems of using Internet

Statistical Office of Estonia planned to start the “**Household survey on ICT usage**” in 2003, but due to budget cut it will not happen. In this survey SOE planned to ask questions about the use of computers and Internet, actions and disadvantages in e-commerce, use of information technology and etc. However from household budget survey the data two indicators are available: number of computers and number of access to the Internet.

Eurostat IS questionnaire has following indicators:

1. Distribution and use of IT in general
2. Use of IT by private households and individuals
3. Use of IT by enterprises
4. Use of IT by public administrations and by health professionals
5. Use of IT for education, training and employment
6. Performance of IT service providers

The questionnaire has been worked out with the purpose to collect existing statistics on the Information Society from National Statistical Institutions. This year Statistical Office of Estonia filled in the questionnaire for the first time and added different comments. At the moment we were able to fill in 22% of the questionnaire.

Future plans

Statistical Office of Estonia plans to carry out the “ICT in household survey” in coming years, if the financial resources will be available. Also we plan to get an overview of IS situation in Estonia.

Dissemination

The SOE will publish Information Society statistics in the monthly bulletin “Estonian Statistics” and in the annual “Statistical Yearbook of Estonia”.

Telecommunication Services

Telecommunication market in Estonia is not very big. The number of telecommunication services (NACE Rev. 1 64.2) enterprises is about 110. There are 3 cellular mobile operators and 12 fixed network operators among them. Other enterprises are Internet services providers, providers of Cable TV etc.

Statistics on telecommunication services:

Since 1993 the Statistical Office of Estonia sends out questionnaires by principal activity to all communication service enterprises (NACE Rev. 1 64.2). The main items in this questionnaire are national and international calls (number and duration of calls). Data about communication services are collected quarterly and annually.

SOE recently added new questions into the telecommunication services questionnaire to expand data range:

- since 2001 data on Internet minutes of connection (dial-up calls) and ADSL subscribers are collected.
- since 2002 data on cellular mobile calls, calls within mobile networks, calls mobile to mobile networks, short text messages (number) and calls from mobile to fixed networks are collected.

Eurostat COINS (Communication and Information Services) questionnaires are worked out with the aim to collect existing statistics on the telecommunications from National Statistical Institutions. In the year 1999 Statistical Office of Estonia filled in the questionnaire for the first time.

The COINS questionnaire is divided into two parts and the data are collected annually.

- Post and courier services (NACE Rev.1 64.1) and
- Telecommunication services (NACE Rev. 1 64.2)

COINS **telecommunications** questionnaire has following indicators:

1. Data of operators
2. Employment
3. Investment
4. Breakdown of turnover
5. Telecommunications volume
6. Infrastructure indicators

In the year 2001 SOE was able to fill in 28% of the questionnaire. There were some problems with economic indicators: the needed data about turnover and investments are too detailed compared to our current questionnaire. Data about turnover and investments are available from Statistical Business Survey (SBS).

Future plans

In 2003 Statistical Office of Estonia plans to start collecting data on incoming international calls.

Dissemination

Data currently available in SOE are disseminated in the monthly bulletin "Estonian Statistics", in the quarterly bulletin "Transport and Communications" and in the annual "Statistical Yearbook of Estonia" and also at Internet homepage of Statistical Office of Estonia www.stat.ee.